

Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CEQ-01 EPA-01 NSF-01 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 ERDA-05
HUD-01 INT-05 HEW-04 DOTE-00 CG-00 COME-00 AGRE-00
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R 051432Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 676

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DEPT PASS TO EPA FOR ADMINISTRATOR COSTLE AND SHOSTAL

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: TGEN, PINT, SENV, UR, US
SUBJECT: US-USSR ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENT: HYDROMET OFFICIAL
LINKS FUTURE OF ENVIRONMENTAL COOPERATION TO RESOLUTION OF CURRENT
US-USSR POLITICAL PROBLEMS (02.00)

REF: MOSCOW 10376

1. SUMMARY - HYDROMET OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE FOR INTERNATIONAL
RELATIONS STATED EMPHATICALLY TO EMBOFF AUGUST 4 THAT EXPANSION
OF US-USSR ENVIRONMENTAL COOPERATION DEPENDS ON IMPROVEMENT
IN POLITICAL RELATIONSM. HE STATES EXPLICITLY THAT DETERIORATION
IN POLITICAL RELATIONS WOULD AFFECT OTHER AREAS, INCLUDING
ENVIRONMENTAL COOPERATION. HE BLAMED PRESIDENT'S HUMAN RIGHTS
STANCE AND US ARMS POLICY, INCLUDING DEVELOPMENT OF NEUTRAON
BOMB, FOR DETERIORATION OF SOVIET-AMERICAN RELATIONS. END SUMMARY

2. V.G. NOVOZHILOV, ASSISTANT FOR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
TO CHIEF OF HYDROMET (AND PROBABLE KGB OFFICER), DELIVERED TO
EMBOFF A STRIDENT DIATRIBE AUGUST 4 AGAINST U.S. POLICY TOWARD
THE SOVIET UNION, FOCUSING PARTICULARLY ON PRESIDENT CARTER'S
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HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY AND THE NEUTRON BOMB. CHARGING THAT THE
PRESIDENT'S "ATTACKS" ON THE USSR IN THE AREA OF HUMAN RIGHTS
AND U.S. EFFORT TO GAIN "UNILATERALADVANTAGE" OVER THE SOVIET UNION
IN STRATEGIC ARMS, MADE ESPECIALLY MANIFEST BY US DEVELOPMENT OF
THE NEUTRON BOMB, WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DETERIORATION IN
OUR MUTUAL RELATIONS, NOVOZHILOV ASSERTED THAT WE COULD NOT
EXPECT EXPANSION OF ENVIRONMENTAL COOPERATIVE ACTIVITY. WHY,

HE CONTINUED, SHOULD THE USSR ACCEPT US CONTENTIONS THAT IT IS SERIOUS ABOUT ENVIRONMENTAL COOPERATION WHEN THE US IS SIMULTANEOUSLY DEVELOPING "DIRTY" WEAPONS LIKE THE NEUTRON BOMB? IN RESPONSE TO EMBOFF'S COMMENT THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT FOR BOTH SIDES TO CONTINUE AND EVEN EXPAND OUR MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL ACTIVITY UNDER THIS AGREEMENT DESPITE POLITICAL DIFFERENCES, NOVOZHILOV ASSERTED THAT IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO SEPARATE POLITICAL QUESTIONS FROM OTHER MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST. INDEED, HE ADDED, A DETERIORATION IN OUR POLITICAL RELATIONSHIP WILL AFFECT COOPERATIVE ACTIVITIES IN OTHER AREAS, SUCH AS THE ENVIRONMENT. NOVOZHILOV CONCLUDED BY STATING THAT FUTURE LEVEL AND SCOPE OF ENVIRONMENTAL COOPERATION WOULD DEPEND IN LARGE MEASURE ON WHETHER OR NOT THE PRESIDENT ENDS HIS HUMAN RIGHTS ATTACKS ON THE SOVIET UNION AND ALSO ON US WILLINGNESS TO NEGOTIATE "SERIOUSLY" FOR REDUCTIONS IN STRATEGIC WEAPONS.

3. BACKGROUND - EMBOFF WENT TO HYDROMET IN RESPONSE TO A REQUEST MADE EARLY AUGUST 4 FROM A WORKING-LEVEL OFFICIAL, DR. YU. STARIKOV, TO DISCUSS LACK OF SOVIET RESPONSE TO CORRESPONDENCE FROM US PARTICIPANTS IN A NUMBER OF JOINT PROJECTS. STARIKOV, HOWEVER, DID NOT APPEAR. INSTEAD, NOVOZHILOV AND JUNIOR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS SECTION OFFICIAL, V.I. SIPAKOV, SHOWED UP. EMBOFF BEGAN MEETING BY LISTING CORRESPONDENCE ON WHICH US SIDE AWAITED RESPONSE. SIPAKOV TOOK NOTES AND INDICATED THAT HE WOULD TRY TO EXPEDITE REQUESTED RESPONSES. NOVOZHILOV THEN
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TOOK OVER AND MADE HIS POINTS IN A TOUGH, BLUNT FASHION WHICH MADE SIPAKOV NOTICEABLY UNCOMFORTABLE. NOVOZHILOV, HOWEVER, TERMINATED THE MEETING WITH THE USUAL PLEASANTRIES. END BACKGROUND.

4. COMMENT - NOVOZHILOV HAS NOW BROKEN NEW GROUND BY ALLUDING TO SPECIFIC LINKAGE BETWEEN CHARACTER OF US-USSR POLITICAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION ON ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS. DESPITE NOVOZHILOV'S COMMENTS, EMBASSY HAS NOT NOTED TO DATE AN INCREASE IN NORMAL DAY-TO-DAY PROBLEMS IN CONDUCT OF ENVIRONMENTAL COOPERATION, NOR HAVE WE HEARD

SIMILAR PRESENTATIONS UNDER OTHER BILATERAL AGREEMENTS. INDEED, WE HAVE OBSERVED SOME IMPROVEMENTS IN ENVIRONMENT: (A) HUDROMET IS NOW DELIVERING CORRESPONDENCE TO US EMBASSY AND (B) SOVIETS

ARE PERMITTING TWO US DELEGATIONS UNDER PROTECTION OF NORTHERN EOSYDLEMS PROJECT (02.05-21) TO MAKE EXTENDED RESEARCH VISITS TO EASTERN SIBERIA, INCLUDING MAGADAN, A CLOSED CITY.
END COMMENT.
TOON

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 05-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
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